

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that the Births registered within the Urban District during the past year amounted to 198, of which 104 were males and 94 females; the Deaths amounted to 109 of which—

30	were	under	1	year	of	age,
8	were	upwards	of	1	and	under 5,
7	"	"	"	5	"	" 15,
3	"	"	"	15	"	" 25,
29	"	"	"	25	"	" 65.
32	"	"	"	65	years	of age.

Of the latter one was 93; one 90; one 88; one 86; two 84; one 82; two 81; two 80; the 109 deaths registered included 12 persons and children who were brought or came into the district suffering from various diseases, thus reducing the estimated number to 97, while the deaths of two aged persons in the Blean Union Infirmary, of one young girl in the Isolation Hospital, and of a young sailor who died away from his home, brings the nett number to 101.

The Birth Rate was 28·2.

The Death Rate was 14·4 per 1000; and

The Mortality of Infants under 1 year of age 141·6 per 1000 births registered.

Two cases of Diphtheria were reported, one of which was fatal and the cause could not be traced, in the other the family had recently removed from a cottage in the country to No. 30, Swan Field, where it was found that the drains were in a neglected condition through the carelessness of the previous occupant; the child was promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital, and although there was a large family no other case occurred, the drains being at once attended to.

Five cases of Scarlet fever were reported, in two of which the infection was traced to a School at Faversham; in another the disease originated from the father who had been employed in painting a house where the disease had recently occurred, these three cases occurred in separate houses and did not spread; the other two cases occurred in the same house and the source of infection could not be traced; the case of Erysipelas was in an old lady of 73 who had ulceration; six cases of Enteric fever were reported, one in a visitor's child who was supposed to have been bathing where offensive odours were found, another case was that of a man living in a house where the drains had been neglected; these two cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, as also were two girls from the "Home of the Good Shepherd," one of the latter being fatal; in these cases the origin was not discovered; a young sailor residing on the Island Wall was also attacked with the same disease without any evidence of the source; also a boy who attended a School in Canterbury, and was reported to have been playing near an offensive drain.

Whitstable

Four cases of Measles occurred during the end of the year, two of which originated in Canterbury, and the others from a child brought from Sunderland.

There were two cases of Suicide, one by strangulation and the other by drowning, and one death the result of an accident.

The district is generally flat, surrounded by hills, the soil being of clay ; the houses for the working classes are generally well-built and nearly all have a considerable amount of open space ; no accumulation of refuse is allowed. The Urban Council exercise supervision over the erection of new houses.

The Sewerage and drainage are as satisfactory as can be under the present system, in which the whole of the sewage is discharged by an outfall into the sea, the control of the same being under the management of the Commissioners of the East Kent Sewers.

The removal and disposal of house refuse is now effected by the Council in their covered vans and appears to be expeditious and satisfactory, the streets are also regularly swept, kept clean, and watered when necessary ; all alleys have been paved. Most of the houses are supplied with water from the Company's mains, which is periodically analysed, the results hitherto having been satisfactory ; some of the houses still derive their supplies from wells over which careful watch is kept.

The slaughter houses, dairies and cowsheds are frequently visited, and any neglect in their sanitary condition promptly dealt with, the occupiers generally remedying defects when pointed out, one dairyman neglecting to do so was summoned before the Magistrates and fined. The few nuisances which have arisen during the year have been abated when pointed out by the Sanitary Inspector.

The notification of Infectious Cases Act was adopted in December, 1894, and arrangement made with the Blean Rural District Council for the removal of patients to their Isolation Hospital at Herne. All houses where any infectious diseases have occurred are afterwards disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Several houses where there was a suspicion of the existence of overcrowding have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JNO. W. HAYWARD,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

